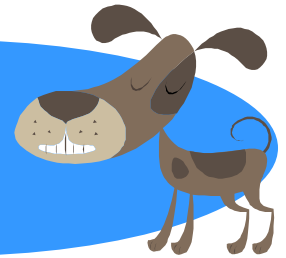


Gimme Shelter

News from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter

Loudoun County
Department of
Animal Care &
Control



October 2008

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A Daring Rescue

Thanks to Captain Daniel Smith of Fire & Rescue for this story!

At 11:45 fire station 12 received a call from the Spurlock & Associates Veterinary Clinic on Featherbed Lane, asking for help with a dog that had climbed into a drainage culvert. Fire & Rescue ECC was advised of the call and a request was made for an animal control unit to respond to assist.

Upon arrival W-12 discovered that a 1 year old yellow lab weighing approximately 60 lbs had become trapped inside an 8" culvert pipe about 20 feet from the opening and about 3 feet underground. The total length of the culvert pipe was about 100 feet and the location of the trapped K-9 presented us with a difficult and serious situation. ECC was updated and the animal control units were asked to expedite due to the circumstances encountered.

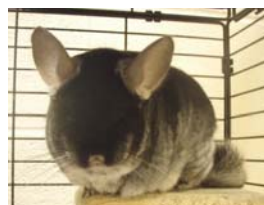
Units from Fire & Rescue worked to clear the end of the pipe of dirt and mud while providing high pressure air/oxygen in an attempt to improve air quality inside the pipe for the dog. Due to the large amount of mud and silt that was inside the pipe, it was decided that a large section of pavement above the pipe would have to be excavated in order to effect a rescue. A local farm was contacted for a backhoe while Fire/Rescue crews started using shovels and pry bars to break up the pavement. After about 35 minutes of "hard labor" the dog was able to free itself enough and crawl to the opening.

During the rescue efforts, emotions were very high as cries of fear and pain could be heard coming from the pipe, these cries only pushed everyone to work to near exhaustion in hopes of freeing the dog. While we worked on the pavement, the two animal control units gathered tools and anything else needed to dig. They prepared for first aid if needed and the whole time offered professional advice, information but most of all encouragement.

Once the dog was free of the pipe it was checked for injury, given oxygen and warmed with blankets. After a few minutes, the dog seemed relaxed, happy and ready to thank everyone who was there. It truly was a pretty emotional incident. Had it not been for the professional response from the two animal control units, the outcome may have been different. They really did a GREAT JOB!

I have since spoken to the owner and other than a few scrapes and scratches "Virginia" the dog has been given a clean bill of health. All the staff at the clinic, the owner and most of all "Virginia" says THANK YOU for all that was done to rescue her from the pipe.

Thank you to Fire & Rescue too for their hard work and effort!



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Since 1996, the first full week in November has been declared **National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week.**

Sponsored by the Humane Society of the United States, this year's theme is "Shelters Rock!"

According to HSUS, "Animal shelters serve their communities in many ways: controlling stray

dogs running at large, responding to calls for assistance from the public, helping families find a new animal companion, rescuing injured animals, and returning

lost animals to their owners. Perhaps most importantly, animal shelters provide

a tangible example of humane ethics and compassion for all living creatures."

We couldn't have said it better ourselves!

If you've never been to the Loudoun County Animal Shelter, stop by during Animal Shelter Appreciation Week. Because Shelters Rock!

Halloween Pet Safety

Halloween is an exciting holiday for kids and grownups alike. But some of our Halloween fun can be scary or dangerous for our pets. Follow these simple tips to keep your companion animals safe & happy during the Halloween season.

- Keep pets inside. Pets, especially cats, can be vulnerable targets for pranksters on Halloween night. Keep them safely indoors to avoid possible trouble.
- More chocolate is sold on Halloween than at any other time of year. Be sure to keep pets away from candy bowls to avoid accidental ingestion of chocolate, which is harmful to dogs and cats. Also beware of candy wrappers, which can be hazardous if swallowed.
- Beware of jack-o-lanterns lighted with candles - a wagging tail can easily knock it over and cause a fire hazard. Or a curious kitty can get his paws or nose burned by the flame. Use a safety glowstick or electric light instead.
- Keep your pet safe in his own room during trick or treat time. A quick dog or cat can dart out a door that is opening and closing often. Also, the sight of strangely dressed people at the door can be very stressful for pets.
- Don't forget to ID your pet! Shelters are always busy around holidays with pets that have wandered away from home. An ID tag or microchip helps identify your pet so he can be returned home.
- Only dress up your pet if he is receptive to it. Don't cause undue stress on your

furry friend! Use treat training to help your pet get used to his costume, but if he doesn't seem happy take it off.

- Masks are never a good idea for pets. Masks can cut off peripheral vision, making a dog or cat nervous about its surroundings. Even the best behaved dog or cat can get agitated and may nip when he can't see what's coming from the side. Make sure your pet's costume fits properly, and does not constrict breathing or movement. Just as with a collar, make sure you can fit two fingers in between the costume and your pet's neck. Inspect the costume and remove any small or dangling pieces that could become a choking hazard.

Happy Halloween from your friends at the Animal Shelter!

Employee of the Month

April Primus is October's Employee of the Month! April is a Field Technician, and her efforts in providing help and support to the Animal Care Technicians, as well as other Department staff, is greatly appreciated by the staff. Specifically, she has been recognized by her co-workers for her hard work in clipping the sheep, working with and grooming the horses, providing training to new staff and filling in where needed. Her support for all animals at the shelter

and work with the Canine Companion Readiness program are further examples of her commitment and dedication to Shelter Animals. April fosters a team environment and is a great asset to the Department.

Thank you April for all you do!

Congratulations April!



What We're Up To...

Furry Fridays

Have you been to Furry Friday yet? Seven animals have found loving homes at Furry Friday events to date. The next one is **Friday, November 14** from 5-7pm at the Sterling Community Center, 120 Enterprise Street. And, beginning in January, we'll have **two** Furry Fridays each month. Don't miss it!

Fall Back

Don't forget to set your clocks back an

hour on **Sunday, November 2.**

And did you know, the US first adopted Daylight Savings Time in 1918? Happy 90th birthday to the annual clock change!

Veteran's Day Holiday

The Animal Shelter will be **closed** on Tuesday, November 11 in observance of the Veteran's Day holiday. Emergency Animal Control services are available by calling 703-777-0445.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN